(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the items likely to be covered by these measures?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) to (c) The Government has announced recently a series of major decisions for boosting exports. These include easier access to machinery and raw materials to major export sectors, upgradation of technology, and modification and revision of our fiscal and industrial policies to encourage export production. These measures cover all the major export sectors.

Bait' at the premises of brokers of Stock Exchange at Bombay

. 835. SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA: SHRI JAGESH DESAI: SHRI J. P. GOYAL: SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Income Tax authorities at Bombay have recently raided the premises of Stock Exchange brokers;

(b) if so, what are the details of the incriminating documents, gold, cash, etc. seized during these raids;

(ci) what is the number of share "brokers involved in these raids; and

(d) what action is being contemplated by Government against the erring persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Income-tax authorities at Bombay had recently searched the premises of 22 share brokers and *prima-facie* unaccounted assets including cash, jswellery, silver and other assets amounting to Rs. 6. 33 crores have been seized upto 31-10-1986. A lot of incriminating material has also been seized and action for assessment, penalties and prosecution under the Direct Taxes Acts is being taken in these cases.

L1C offices in N. E. State?

836. SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many offices of the Life Insurance Corporation are situated in North Eastern States;

(b) whether it is a fact that the number of offices are very much less a_s compared to the area; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to open more LIC offices in this region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) There are 3 Divisional Offices and 37 Branch Offices of the life Insurance Corporation of India in the N. E. States.

(b) and (c) Opening of offices in an area is not dependent only on the geographic area. Factors like population, availability of development staff, business potential, number of branches in a district, etc., are also taken into account. Viewed in this context, it would not be correct to say that the number of offices are legs.

Settlement of excise disputes

837. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER. Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 21 firms have urged the Union Government to *come* to an out of the court settlement of excise disputes;

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.